



**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
July 9, 2008**

This meeting of the Maryland Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, July 9, at 10:30AM. The members met at MDOT in the Board Room.

Acting Chair Mario VillaSanta chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 10:41AM. The June minutes were approved.

Mr. Beam was then asked by Mr. VillaSanta to present additional information on the previous month's dedication request for Governor Hughes on MD 404. Mr. Beam then replied that the additional letters of support has arrived from elected officials as expected. Mr. Cox then made a motion to recommend approval of the request. Ms. Petzold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission next heard from Mr. Rick Johnson of the Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Freight Logistics (OFL). OFL is a merging of the State Railroad Administration and the Motor Carrier Policy Officer role. There are five people in the OFL now. There are 2 people working exclusively with rail (Class I), short line railroads and trucking.

Mr. Johnson gave a presentation to the Commission on the OFL and their activities in Maryland and the nation as a whole. He noted the nationwide trend from "push pull" freight to Just in Time (JIT) delivery cycle and how a 5% increase in infrastructure nationwide is not enough to match how freight has doubled.

Mr. Johnson stressed that the state needs to be thinking as a corridor and not at the state level only. Mr. Alston noted that the Baltimore Freight Tunnels are still an issue and that the shippers still can't get double stack rail cars through.. Mr Johnson agreed with Mr. Alston and also noted the potential impact of fuel prices on freight.. If a distance is 500 miles or less, rail does not compete with trucking, but as prices rise, this distance could shrink. The higher prices go, the better for rail, but efficiency needs to be there for rail.

Mr. Johnson passed out business cards and urged members of the Commission to contact him with ideas and comments. The Commission thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and time.

Hearing no further issues, the Commission adjourned at 11:47AM.